

Message Text

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ORIGIN HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SIG-03 H-01
SS-15 VO-05 INSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 /065 R

DRAFTED BY HA:ORM:SCLOWMAN:CAF
APPROVED BY HA:ORM:SCLOWMAN
HOUSE JUDICIARY COM:GJCLINE
EA;RA:JFRIEDMAN

-----032310 102129Z /13

P 102031Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: INDOCHINESE REFUGEE PROBLEMS

1. ON AUGUST 4TH, THAI FOREIGN MINISTER UPPADIT AND
MALAYSIAN FOREIGN MINISTER RITHAYDDEEN MET WITH THE SUB-
COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION OF THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE.
IN ADDITION TO CHAIRMAN EILBERG AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE
SUBCOMMITTEE, PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED CONGRESSMAN MCCLORY,
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER OF THE FULL JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
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AND CONGRESSMAN MANN WHO RECENTLY VISITED SOUTHEAST ASIA
AS A MEMBER OF CODEL WOLFF.

2. CHAIRMAN EILBERG BEGAN BY DES-RIBING THE PROCESS IN-
VOLVED IN A DECISION TO PAROLE REFUGEES INTO THE UNITED
STATES. HE NOTED THAT THIS GENERALLY BEGAN WITH A RECOM-
MENDATION FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL,

BASED UPON REPORTS RECEIVED FROM EMBASSIES. WHILE NOT REQUIRED BY THE LAW, CHAIRMAN EILBERG POINTED OUT THAT A VERY STRONG PRACTICE OF CONSULTATION BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WITH THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE HAD GROWN UP. THIS WAS ILLUSTRATED, HE SAID, BY THE FACT THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL NOW REQUESTED THE WRITTEN CONCURRENCE WITH SUCH A PAROLE ACTION FROM THE RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES BEFORE TAKING FINAL ACTION.

CHAIRMAN EILBERG NOTED THAT THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION POLICY WAS FOR ADMISSION OF 25,000 INDOCHINESE REFUGEES ANNUALLY.

3. THE DESIRABILITY OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INDOCHINESE REFUGEES WAS DISCUSSED. ALL PARTIES APPEARED TO AGREE THAT SOME SUCH MEETING MIGHT BE DESIRABLE. BOTH FOREIGN MINISTERS NOTED THAT THE COUNTRIES INVITED FOR SUCH A CONFERENCE SHOULD BE LIMITED TO THOSE WHO MIGHT REASONABLY BE EXPECTED TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. THE MALAYSIAN FOREIGN MINISTER REITERATED SEVERAL TIMES HIS BELIEF THAT SUCH A CONFERENCE SHOULD BE CALLED UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF THE UNHCR. CHAIRMAN EILBERG AND SUBCOMMITTEE RANKING MINORITY MEMBER CONGRESSMAN FISH BOTH EXPRESSED DOUBT ABOUT THE ABILITY OF THE UNHCR TO SUCCESSFULLY DEVELOP NEW INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES. CONGRESSMAN FISH SUGGESTED THAT SUCH A CON-

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ERENCE MIGHT BE CALLED BY AND UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF ASEAN ITSELF.

4. FOREIGN MINISTER UPPADIT ASKED ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR NEW REFUGEE LEGISLATION. CHAIRMAN EILBERG SAID THAT ONLY SIX WEEKS REMAINED BEFORE THE CONGRESS ADJOURNED AND INDICATED THAT LEGISLATION WITHIN THAT TIME PERIOD WOULD BE DOUBTFUL. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION IN THE FOLLOWING SPRING, ASSUMING ADEQUATE COOPERATION IN THE SENATE. CONGRESSMAN MCCLORY NOTED IN THIS CONNECTION THAT THE PAROLE FOR 25,000 WAS ALREADY IN PLACE IF THE PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION WERE DELAYED.

5. THE GENERAL TONE OF THE MEETING WAS ONE OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION. THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS EXPLAINED THEIR CONCERNS ABOUT THE INCREASING NUMBERS OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES ARRIVING IN THEIR COUNTRIES. MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS EXPRESSED SYMPATHY FOR THIS PROBLEM AND A WILLINGNESS TO SEEK WAYS TO ASSIST. CONGRESSMAN EILBERG AND THE MEMBERS SUGGESTED THAT THERE BE A CONTINUING DIALOGUE ON THIS SUBJECT AND REQUESTED THAT THEY PERSONALLY OR THEIR

RESPECTIVE AMBASSADORS IN WASHINGTON "FEEL FREE" TO COMMUNICATE ANY RELEVANT INFORMATION TO THE IMMIGRATION SUBCOMMITTEE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE202591
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ORM:SCLOWMAN:CAF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780328-0184
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780877/aaaacmem.tel
Line Count: 119
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 23be5b65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN HA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1775853
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDOCHINESE REFUGEE PROBLEMS
TAGS: SREF
To: KUALA LUMPUR BANGKOK MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/23be5b65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014